

June 20, 1990

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Mr. Don Christiansen
355 West 1300 South
Orem, Utah 84058

Dear Mr. Christiansen:

I am writing this letter in reference to the exchange of water out of Starvation Reservoir for the Provo River Water Users. I was not invited to attend the meeting in which the deals were made on how that water was to be exchanged. And I assumed that it would be replaced to Starvation from Soldier Creek Reservoir with some kind of exchange with Provo and Utah Lake water users. Then when I received a copy of your letter to Jack Gardner, it seemed clear that the exchange was to be made from the Duchesne Tunnel in the North Fork of the Duchesne to Starvation Reservoir during the water year of 1990.

Yesterday I called Provo River Water Users office and asked if we could make that exchange from the Duchesne tunnel to Starvation. Jack was on the phone when I called so I called back two hours later. From the time I had called the first time to the time I called the second time he had talked to Howard Pierson and they were working some kind of deal for some kind of exchange with Utah Lake.

It is my opinion that if you want to have Provo River repay the water to Starvation Reservoir, it must be made immediately from the North Fork of the Duchesne. I do not have a crystal ball to tell when the river flows are going to drop below the level that Provo River will still be entitled to water. That is why I am asking you to make the decision immediately.

As water commissioner of the Duchesne/Strawberry Rivers, I see a lot of mismanagement in the operation of the Central Utah Project. It seems to me that Starvation Reservoir is always on the short end. There was approximately 5000 acre feet of water that bypassed Knight's Diversion that was wasted because the water users could not use it. The water that bypassed Knight's Diversion and the extreme high water in Rock Creek washed out many canal headings causing thousands of dollars of damage. This is not fair to the rest of the water users along the Duchesne River. Yesterday I found out that 100 second feet of water is being released downstream to make concession for boat ramp construction in Upper Stillwater. I disagree with that type of priority.

It's these kind of practices which make the Basin people bitter toward the C.U.P. I don't know who makes the decisions on the operation, but I think they could be made better from the Duchesne office. I guess we can't cry over spilled milk, or

wasted water.

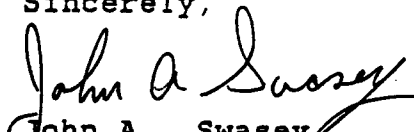
When I took the job to be River Commissioner, I had one goal in mind. That was to try and treat everyone fairly no matter whether they were the Indian Department, Provo River, Central Utah Water Conservancy District or the white, minority, private farmer.

The water users in the Uintah Basin last year and, so far this year, have really tried to manage their water and try and get by on 4 acre feet or less. I would hope that this would be the Central Utah Water Conservancy District's goal also. There would be more water for everyone if more cooperative measures would be put into practice.

I appreciate the people in the Duchesne office. They have really tried to work with me and all the other water users in the Duchesne/Strawberry River system.

Thank you for your consideration in these matters and I hope we will be able to come to some sort of a cooperative understanding and solution to the problems we face as water users.

Sincerely,


John A. Swasey
Water Commissioner

cc Leo Brady